May 11, 2001 Vol. 40, No. 10

Spaceport News

America's gateway to the universe. Leading the world in preparing and launching missions to Earth and beyond.

http://www-pao.ksc.nasa.gov/kscpao/snews/snewstoc.htm John F. Kennedy Space Center

KSC hosts community leaders

Several hundred Brevard County and State of Florida movers and shakers learned about innovative developments and plans for Kennedy Space Center during the Community Leaders Briefing April 24.

KSC Director Roy Bridges Jr. and Deputy Director James Jennings met with community leaders at the Dr. Kurt H. Debus Conference Facility in the KSC Visitor Complex for the annual briefing.

The KSC senior executives discussed the long-term viability of KSC and how the space program benefits the community.

Community leaders heard KSC's vision for the future, the current KSC budget, employment trends, educational partnerships, future goals and major facility projects. They learned KSC's budget, which has been relatively stable in recent years, has been set for $1.6 billion for fiscal 2002.

(See BRIEFING, Page 6)

Kennedy Space Center Director Roy Bridges and Deputy Director James Jennings address participants during the Community Leaders Briefing held at the KSC Visitor Complex on April 24.

New Feature

Spaceport News is adding a new periodic feature "Remembering Our Heritage." The feature will highlight launch and other space program anniversaries.

Inside

Space Congress looks ahead

Space program leaders from the government, industry and academia discussed possible directions of the space program for the next 50 years during the 38th Space Congress May 1-4.

The international conference, sponsored by the Canaveral Council of Technical Societies, was held at the Radisson Resort at the Port in Cape Canaveral. The theme was "A Space Odyssey – The Next 50 Years."

Gen. Ralph Eberhart, commander in chief, U.S. Space Command, and commander, Air Force Space Command, started the conference with his keynote address.

"We must rededicate ourselves as a nation to our space odyssey. We should always remember the words of Jules Verne, 'What one man can dream, others can make real,' " Eberhart said.

Session and panel speakers discussed plans for exploration of the solar system, use of space for defending national interests and the need for space education.

Session speaker Renee Ponik, NASA comprehensive master planner for Kennedy Space Center, presented an update on the Cape Canaveral Spaceport Master Plan.

The master plan, which has been under development since August 2000, is a first-of-its-kind comprehensive look at the Spacport. It considers KSC and the Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, plus the other operating agencies within Spaceport boundaries, including the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge and the Canaveral National Seashore, as a single 160,000-acre

(See CONGRESS, Page 8)

"We must rededicate ourselves as a nation to our space odyssey. We should always remember the words of Jules Verne, 'Anything one man can imagine, other men can make real.' "

Gen. Ralph Eberhart
Commander in chief, U.S. Space Command
Commander, Air Force Space Command

Recognizing Our People

Awards

Certificates of Appreciation

Johnson, Truemilla, BA-D; Denise, Catone, BA-A; Mangieri, Dan, BA-C; Stallings, Connie, BA-C; Stevenson, Cricket, BA-C; Wilson, Dave, BA-C; Popp, Gregory, Spaceport Florida Authority; Horn, Steven, CC; Mack, Bridgett, GG-C; Bronson, Regina, JP-A; Hawkins, Jeanne, JP-B; Hull, Thomas, JP-A; Rochester, Laura , JP; Burkhart, Jeanne, OP-OS; Nelson, Marilynn, OP-ES; Rafferty, Donna, OP-AM; Beil, Robert, PH-G; Brown, Donald, USK-119; Bundy, Andrew, PH-K2; Chivers, Joel, PH-N; Eadens, David, USK-N94; Mariano, Carolyn, PH-H1; Mitchell, Bill, USK-632; Mulligan, Melanie, PH-M; Sally, Christopher, PH-F1; Wittkopf, Donald, USK-282; Ackroyd, Linda, QA-A; Haddad, Samuel, QA-A-1; Monson, Robert, QA-D; Williams, Rutha, QA-D; Barcon, Eric, TA-B2; Boatright, John, TA-B2; Brown, Rodney, TA-C3; Dutt, George, TA-B2; Farley, Max, TA-D2; Lynn, Patricia, TA-C3; Sizemore, James, TA-D2; Coats, Ricky, UB-C3; Shultz, Daniel, UB-E; Milbert, Michael, UB-G1; Brawn, Lisa, UB-B1; Smith, Michele, UB-G3; Aguayo, Pablo, UB-G5; Nordeen, Ross, UB-E; Camacho, Jose, UB-G1; Nelson, Damon, UB-H; Arrington, Jon, UB-F2; Antonucci, Gerald, UB-F2; Barry, Steven, UB-F2; Bonde, Mark, UB-F2; Brunelle, Steven, UB-F2; Craig, Gary, UB-F2; Dixon, David, UB-F2; Downing, David, UB-F2; Eichenlaub, Thomas, UB-F2; Hale, Gregory, UB-F2; Harrison, Michael, UB-F2; Holt, Gary, UB-F2; Love, Vera, UB-F2; McMahon, Donald, UB-F2; Morris, Ronald, UB-F2; Phillips, Richard, UB-F2; Reed, James, UB-F2; Rosenberry, John, UB-F2; Scaltsas, Richard, UB-F2; Thompson , Mary, UB-F2; Cox, Stephen, VB-E1; Duffy, Amy, 7210-C205; Nance, Rozella, SMI-KSC; Norman, Jack, CMT-450; Alexander, Edward, USK-373; Aument, Karen, GSFC-307; Bryant, Benjamin, YA-E1-S; Caswell, Donald, DNX-32; Courtney, James, USK-504; Filko, Charles, USK-504; Floyd, Susan, Boeing; Johnson, Earl, USK-489; Meeks, James, DNX-3; Pope, April,, LM/CLCS; Ross, David, 721Z-K080; Smith, Richard, YA-E1-D3; Heffner, Ken, Air Force; Loftin, Charles, Air Force

NASA Administrator Daniel Goldin, right, is pictured with Commercial Invention of the Year Award winners, from left, Paul Gamble, chemist, Dynacs Engineering; Andrew Kelly, hypergolic systems engineer, NASA; Dr. Clyde Parrish, senior chemist, NASA; Dr. Dale Lueck, senior chemist, NASA.

Goldin applauds KSC inventors

NASA Administrator Daniel Goldin presented a team of Kennedy Space Center scientists and engineers certificates and checks for the NASA Commercial Invention of the Year Award on May 4 at NASA Headquarters.

The award was for the improved nitrogen textroxide scrubber system, which traps the propellant oxidizer vapors and with the addition of other compounds converts it into fertilizer.

It's the first time a KSC team has won the award given annually by NASA Headquarters to recognize a significant technology spinoff developed at one of the NASA centers.

The inventors are Dr. Clyde Parrish, NASA; Dr. Dale Lueck, NASA; Andrew Kelly, NASA; and Paul Gamble, Dynacs Engineering. Dynacs is KSC's Engineering Development Contractor.

"This is a wonderful invention, to take a toxic material and turn it into fertilizer," Goldin said. "It's a paradox, to be able to clean up the environment and create a useful procedure at the same time."

The new scrubber process process was tested and is being implemented at KSC. The fertilizer generated is being used on KSC orange groves. The invention has been licensed to Phoenix Systems International Inc. of McDonald, Ohio.

"The award is a recognition that Kennedy Space Center is a real force in the development area," said Ken Payne, acting director of Spaceport Engineering and Technology. Payne was among the group of KSC managers who attended the ceremony at headquarters with the inventors and their families.

Service recognized

Kennedy Space Center Director Roy Bridges recently received his 35-year service plaque. He is pictured presenting Associate Director Marv Jones with Jones' 40-year service certificate.

QASAR Awards given to salute quality and safety

Seven NASA and contractor employees of Kennedy Space Center were honored this quarter with the Quality And Safety Achievement Recognition (QASAR) Award.

The QASAR Award recognizes individuals who have displayed exemplary performance in contributing products and services and a safe environment and processes for NASA.

The QASAR Award is sponsored by NASA Headquarters' Office of Safety and Mission Assurance. The director of KSC's Safety, Health and Independent Assessment Directorate makes the final selection of QASAR recipients at the space center. The honorees:

Bao Nguyen, NASA, selected for his outstanding performance and attention to detail for the discovery of an unsecured bracket on the Orbiter Access Arm white room during the STS-97 T-8 hour pad inspection. The timely discovery prevented foreign object debris damage to the Shuttle vehicle and prevented a launch scrub.

Stephen Swichkow, NASA, selected for his outstanding contribution to the investigation of the STS-97 SRB firing line anomaly and the cable screening test for STS-98 flight certification.

Bruce Ledford, NASA, selected for his outstanding leadership in investigating the shuttle asset implications of the Ka-Band weather radar study.

Cindy Gersten, Space Gateway Support/Logicon Federal Data Corp., selected for her dedicated, professional service in the design, implementation, and operations of an on-line, automated change request and control system, which effectively supports both NASA and JBOSC application/systems development and modifications efforts.

Tamela Kimmell-Hammond, Space Gateway Support, selected for her outstanding efforts and dedication in supporting and promoting safety and health through the Voluntary Protection Program and for making SGS and the spaceport a safer and more healthful place to live and work.

Michael Milbert, NASA, selected for his persistence, dedication and commitment to proactively pursuing resolutions to problems with power systems devices that pose a risk to International Space Station, Payloads hardware and personnel.

Roger Lawrence, Space Gateway Support, selected for his leadership as the SGS planner/supervisor for the replacement of three oil-filled, high voltage, load break switches in the VAB during the period March 9-13, 2001. Under his leadership, a significant fire and explosion risk to the Space Shuttle fleet and to the personnel who work inside and nearby the VAB was eliminated. His professionalism ensured this critical activity was safely conducted with minimum impact to Shuttle processing.

Starr wins Goddard Historic Essay Award

Stanley Starr is the recipient of the National Space Club's Dr. Robert H. Goddard Historic Essay Award. The award was presented at the recent Annual Goddard Memorial Dinner.

A short version of Starr's essay, "Before the Beginning: the story behind the first launch from Cape Canaveral," appeared in the July 28 issue of *Spaceport News* in conjunction with the 50th Anniversary of the Bumper 8 launch.

Starr – chief engineer and deputy program manager for Dynacs on the Engineering Development Contract at Kennedy Space Center – has worked as a contractor at KSC for 20 years in various engineering and management roles.

Starr said that he was "very surprised and honored to receive the award. It's definitely made me more serious about researching space history.

"I hope to follow up this short piece with a NASA Monograph which would include the results of the Bumper History Project."

A NASA and contractor team led by Dr. Shannon Roberts interviewed eight Bumper era veterans and amassed a significant addition to the KSC Archive.

Dr. Roger Launius, NASA chief historian, performed the oral history interviews.

InDyne Inc. employee Elaine Liston, the KSC archivist, provided much of the project coordination.

Dynacs perfomed the taping and transcribing of the interviews with Starr providing historical expertise.

"By studying the past we can see how much we owe those pioneers for developing so many technologies and methods for handling, servicing and launching large rockets that have evolved into what we have today," Starr said of the project.

Stanley Starr is pictured in the KSC Archive with the award he won for his Bumper 8 essay.

Center Director Roy Bridges, right, presents the Energy Star plaque to Child Care Coordinator Miriam Fuentes. At left, is KSC Energy Manager Wayne Thalasinos, who was on hand to recognize the center's honor.

Child Care Center honored

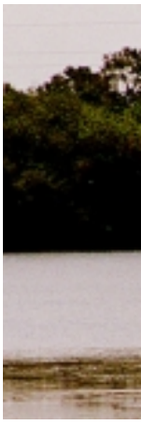
During the 2001 Environmental and Energy Awareness Week opening ceremony, Center Director Roy Bridges presented the Child Development Center with a plaque for becoming one of NASA's first facilities to earn the Energy Star label for buildings.

The Energy Star label is a national symbol of energy efficiency managed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Department of Energy.

The Child Care Development Center was recognized for demonstrating energy efficiency in the top 25 percent of similar buildings while maintaining indoor environment requirements for air quality, thermal comfort, and lighting performance.

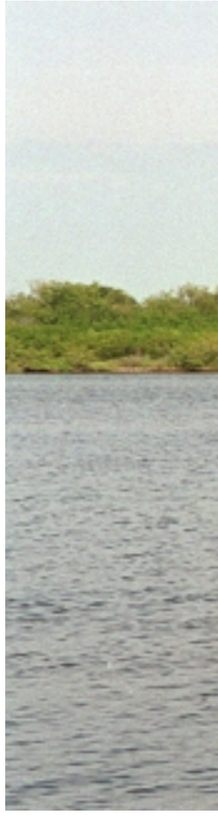
Across all NASA Centers, only two facilities of 64 candidates reviewed by NASA Headquarters qualified for this prestigious award.

Bridges congratulated all the team members who contributed and expressed special thanks to SGS Engineering Services' Energy Management Office for supporting the data collection and facility walkdowns required to apply for the label and to SGS Facilities Management Services for maintaining the building's energy efficiency.



Inside

the Marine Patrol



The Marine Patrol is an essential part of security at the Cape Canaveral Spaceport because the area is most vulnerable to intruders via its many waterways, from the Banana River to Port Canaveral to the Atlantic Ocean.

Through the Joint Base Operations and Support Contract, Space Gateway Support's Security Police Marine Patrol Section provides surveillance of area waterways 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

"Many of the boaters we stop aren't local and don't realize they have come into a secured area," said Bill Rickelman, Marine Patrol supervisor. "Occasionally, we have to deal with local folks who know better but have heard how good the fishing in a certain area is."

Although such intrusions may seem harmless, because of the possibility of terrorist or espionage activities, all intrusions into secured areas must be addressed, Rickelman said.

A staff of specially trained security officers operate a fleet of 12 boats to continuously survey Spaceport waterways and respond when unauthorized watercraft are observed or detected by sensors. Marine Patrol issues trespass warnings to security violators and escorts them out of secured areas.

Shallow areas of Spaceport waterways are covered by the patrol's four airboats, river channels by two flat boats and a 17-foot Boston Whaler, the Trident Turn Basin and Navy Wharf by three harbor patrol boats and the Atlantic by two offshore boats.

Marine Patrol also calls upon other government agencies, including the Coast Guard and U.S. Fish and Wildlife, to assist them when necessary.

The Coast Guard helps support the patrol in keeping a large, variable launch zone in the Atlantic boat-free before and during expendable launch vehicle launches. The agency also helps the Marine Patrol escort Navy submarines and warships into the Trident Basin at Port Cananveral. The Coast Guard was on hand on May 2, for example, when Marine Patrol escorted in a Navy fast-attack submarine.

Fish and Wildlife monitors the Banana River south of the NASA Causeway to the State Road 528 bridge for motorized vessels, which are prohibited within the manatee safe zone.

Even so, motorboat captains make their way north of the NASA Causeway about once a week.

"Most of the time the boaters have just gotten lost," Rickelman said. "Our biggest challenge is to address the incident courteously while at the same time maintaining security."

In addition to maintaining security on Spaceport waterways, the Marine Patrol offers support for marine operations at the Spaceport, including for environmental studies, shoreline surveys and filming.

Clockwise from top left: Bill Rickelman, Marine Patrol supervisor, checks out a monitor on one of the Marine Patrol fleet's offshore boat. The boat is used to help keep launch zones in the Atlantic Ocean boat-free before and during launches from the Cape Canaveral Spaceport. Birds and a dolphin are just a few of the permanent inhabitants of the Spaceport often seen on the Marine Patrol's security patrols, which are made around the clock. Two views of Algernon Cooper, security police officer, patrolling the Banana River in an airboat. Jerry Heyman, security police officer, escorts a U.S. Navy fast-attack submarine into Port Canaveral and the Trident Basin. Cooper and Heyman are among a group of specially trained officers who support the Marine Patrol. A pelican perches on a palm stump as if a sentinel keeping a watchful eye on the Spaceport.

MAP spacecraft arrives at KSC for processing

NASA's Microwave Anisotropy Probe (MAP) arrived April 20 at Kennedy Space Center from the Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Md.

The MAP spacecraft is undergoing final readiness preparations for its upcoming launch this summer from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station (CCAFS) aboard a Boeing Delta II launch vehicle.

Using a scanning method, MAP will make an accurate, precise, full-sky picture of cosmic microwave background radiation, the afterglow of the Big Bang.

MAP seeks to answer fundamental questions about the formation and fate of the universe. Among the questions MAP will attempt to answer: How old is the universe? How and when did the first galaxies form? Will the universe expand forever or will it collapse? How rapidly is the universe expanding?

Upon arrival at Kennedy Space Center, MAP was taken to the Spacecraft and Encapsulation Facility-2 (SAEF-2), a payload processing facility located in the Industrial Area.

Several milestones must be completed while MAP is at SAEF-2 including antenna installations, solar array installation, solar array deployment and illumination testing, a spacecraft comprehensive performance test, fueling with hydrazine propellant, and a spin balance test.

MAP will then be ready for integration with the solid propellant Payload Assist Module upper stage booster.

MAP is scheduled to be transported from SAEF-2 to Space Launch Complex 17 on CCAFS June 19 where it will be hoisted atop the Boeing Delta II launch vehicle at Pad 17-B. The protective fairing will be installed around the spacecraft on June 26. Launch is currently targeted to occur on June 30 at 4 p.m. EDT.

Above, the Microwave Anisotropy Probe (MAP) satellite arrives at KSC's Spacecraft Assembly and Encapsulation Facility 2. Inside the facility, at left, the covered MAP satellite is revealed after removal of its transport container. Launch of the satellite aboard a Delta II launch vehicle is currently targeted from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station Pad 17-B on June 30 at 4 p.m. EDT. On orbit, MAP will make a full-sky picture of cosmic microwave background radiation, the afterglow of the Big Bang.

Salt fog chamber

Dynacs Engineering, the Engineering Development Contractor for Kennedy Space Center, recently acquired responsibility for a new salt fog chamber. The Q-FOG Cyclic Corrosion Tester, pictured above, uses salt spray in an environmentally controlled chamber to duplicate environments experienced by materials exposed to naturally produced salt spray. The chamber was purchased by NASA to enhance corrosion test capabilities at KSC and has resulted in the award of a $30,000 corrosion test project. The project is being conducted by Dynacs through a Space Act Agreement between NASA and the Naval Research Labs. Pictured from left is Ray Springer, Dynacs technician, Lilliana Fitzpatrick, Dynacs chemist, Rubiela Vinje, Dynacs corrosion engineer, Louis MacDowell, NASA Corrosion Testbeds manager.

BRIEFING ...

(Continued from Page 1)

"The Odyssey Continues" was the theme for the briefing and breakfast. The theme was a reference to Arthur C. Clarke's novel "2001 Space Odyssey" and to KSC moving forward in the new millennium.

"According to Clarke we should be a little farther along in our exploration of space than we are now, but life is a little tougher than fiction," Bridges said. "What is real is that while we are sitting here, the International Space Station is being constructed. It's one of the greatest engineering feats humans have ever accomplished."

KSC is preparing to help support experiments on the Space Station by building the Space Experiment and Processing Laboratory (SERPL), Bridges said. The world-class facility, made possible through a partnership with the State of Florida, will provide modern laboratories and experiment processing areas. The design of SERPL is being finalized and construction will begin in the coming months.

"SERPL is the ground floor to our laboratory in space," Bridges said. "It's the key to our future."

Bridges noted that a second Operations Support Building is planned for KSC. The new five-story building will replace a 20-year-old office trailer park. The OSB II will feature conference space and a VIP launch viewing area.

Two videos were shown at the briefing. The first video, shown at the beginning of the program, detailed KSC's accomplishments during the past year. The second, shown at the end of the program, was a visual summary of the Shuttle program's first 20 years.

Community leaders received copies of the just-published KSC annual report.

Following the program, guests had an opportunity to see some of the newest attractions at the Visitor Complex.

New Block II engine installed on Atlantis

The next Space Shuttle crew can expect an even safer ride into orbit, thanks to the completion of a new Space Shuttle Main Engine.

Workers installed one of the new engines, called the Block II configuration, on Space Shuttle Atlantis April 24 at Kennedy Space Center.

Atlantis' first flight using the new engine is targeted for no earlier than June 14 on mission STS-104 to the International Space Station.

Atlantis will use one Block II main engine and two Block IIA main engines to complete its full complement of three engines.

Improvements to the main engines, managed by NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center, Huntsville, Ala., and manufactured by Boeing Rocketdyne, Canoga Park, Calif., continue to evolve to produce the safest, most reliable and reusable space transportation system in the world.

The Block II Main Engine configuration includes a new Pratt & Whitney high-pressure fuel turbopump. The new pump is stronger than the old pump and should increase the number of flights between major overhauls.

"With this design change, we believe we have more than doubled the reliability of the engine," said George Hopson, manager of the Space Shuttle Main Engine project at Marshall.

Developed in the 1970s by Marshall, the Space Shuttle Main Engine is the world's most sophisticated reusable rocket engine.

Each powerful main engine is 14 feet long, weighs about 7,000 pounds and is 7.5 feet in diameter at the end of the nozzle.

As the giant forklift moves closer to Atlantis, workers keep watch as the new Block II configuration nears its installation point. The Space Shuttle Main Engine work was being done in the Orbiter Processing Facility bay 3.

Cultural series provides enrichment

NASA-KSC, in cooperation with colleges and universities of the Florida Space Institute, has introduced a series of cultural lunch events at various locations throughout Kennedy Space Center with the goal of enriching employee workday and building partnerships with academia.

Dr. Shannon Roberts, associate director of External Relations and Business Development for NASA, is the program sponsor and University of Central Florida's Gina Crabbs is chairwoman for the noontime series.

"The idea was initially suggested by the University of Central Florida," said JoAnn Morgan, director of External Relations and Business Development. "Faculty visiting JPL (Jet Propulsion Laboratory) observed employees enjoying onsite musical performances during lunch. It was suggested that we consider doing something similar for employees."

As a result, in April, the Florida Space Institute presented a musical recital the cafeteria at the Space Shuttle Processing Facility. Lunchgoers were treated to a concert featuring renowned musical artists, Dr. Nora Lee Garcia, flutist and graduate of the University of Miami, and Dr. Eladio Scharron, guitarist and graduate of the University of Puerto Rico.

Dr. Nora Lee Garcia, flutist, and Dr. EladioScharron, guitarist, perform in the Space Shuttle Proces-sing Facility cafeteria as part of the new cultural series at Kennedy Space Center. The series is being sponsored by NASA-KSC and the Florida Space Institute.

On Feb. 14, the 19-member Madrigal Ensemble singers from Brevard Community College-Melbourne performed in the Headquarters Building cafeteria.

"This is a work in progress and the response has been good," stated Crabbs, a pianist who gave the first musical concert during a center-wide holiday celebration in December.

Crabbs is a graduate of the Peabody Conservatory at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore.

"We're planning at least three performances a year, plus a holiday show in December featuring entertainers from partner colleges and universities of the Florida Space Institute," Crabbs said.

This is a work in progress and the response has been good. We're planning at least three performances a year, plus a holiday show in December featuring entertainers from partner colleges and universities of the Florida Space Institute.

Gina Crabbs
Cultural series chairwoman

Roberts said future plans also include a talent show featuring KSC employees and their families and featured performances as part of the Cape Canaveral Spaceport's annual open house in the Fall.

CONGRESS ...

(Continued from Page 1)

complex with a common vision.

The ongoing joint master planning activities are supported by NASA/KSC, the U.S. Air Force 45th Space Wing and Spaceport Florida Authority. ZHA Inc. is the master planning consultant for the project, which is to be completed by summer 2002.

As the plan has been developed, the following goals – examined more in detail on the Web site – have been determined for the Spaceport.

- Center of Excellence for environmental stewardship and land management
- Premier prototype spaceport with optimal management and operation
- Assured and enhanced access to and from space for civil and commercial operations and testing
- Assured and enhanced priority access to and from space for national defense operations and testing and access for planetary defense
- Access for space-based research, space commerce and space exploration; research and development of new spaceport technologies, space-related academia, and commercial development

Ponik encouraged attendees to participate in the plan by submitting ideas at **yourspaceport.com**.

So far about 3,000 people have added their input to the planning process, about 2,000 from accessing the Web site and the rest from participating in various focus and planning groups.

Kennedy Space Center will soon be adorned with outdoor furniture such as the pieces pictured above thanks to the KSC Recycling Program.

Recycled furniture purchased

Kennedy Space Center's Recycling Program, managed by the Environmental Program Branch, has purchased picnic benches and tables made of recycled materials.

All of the plastic outdoor furniture meets the Environmental Protection Agency guidelines.

The plastic furniture is made from old milk and photographic film containers.

It being paid for with the funds generated by the sale of recycled materials here at the Center, including paper, batteries and scrap metal.

The new tables and benches are a reminder that recycling materials enhances the environment by reducing production waste, saving natural resources and extending the life of our landfills.

When the furniture arrives, it will be placed throughout Kennedy Space Center for the enjoyment of employees.

Those interested in this type of product, and finding out the point of contact for identifying a requirement, should contact Janice Everett, TA-CE, at 867-8421, e-mail Janice.Everett-1@ksc.nasa.gov.

Remembering Our Heritage

Astronaut Virgil "Gus" Grissom wishes Alan Shepard a safe flight just before insertion into the Freedom 7 spacecraft.

The early Mercury astronauts were big fans of comedian Bill Dana's fictional astronaut Jose Jimenez. Al Shepard, Jose's biggest fan, once sneaked a tape of the comedy routine into the somber proceedings at the Mercury Control Center during a practice session. It was only natural, then, as Shepard rocketed away aboard Freedom 7 on the first American manned space flight on **May, 5, 1961**, that astronaut Virgil "Gus" Grissom radioed "Okay, Jose, you're on your way." Shepard told Dana that all the kidding around with the comic character helped ease the prelaunch jitters.

From The Light Stuff *by Bob Ward.*

Other May anniversaries:

- On **May 4, 1976**, Lageos, a passive satellite to use as reflectors for lasers conducting geological studies was launched from the Cape Canaveral Spaceport.
- May 30 is a twin anniversary in lunar-planetary exploration. On **May 30, 1966**, Atlas Centaur 10 launches Surveyor 1, the first spacecraft to make a successful soft landing on the moon. Exactly five years later, on **May 30, 1971**, Atlas Centaur 23 launched Mariner 9, the first spacecraft to orbit another planet (Mars). Surveyor was launched from Pad 36A and Mariner from Pad 36B.

John F. Kennedy Space Center

Spaceport News

Spaceport News is an official publication of the Kennedy Space Center and is published on alternate Fridays by the Public Affairs Office in the interest of KSC civil service and contractor employees.

Contributions are welcome and should be submitted two weeks before publication to the Media Services Branch, XAE-1. E-mail submissions can be sent to Katharine.Hagood-1@ksc.nasa.gov

Managing editor. . . . . Bruce Buckingham
Editor. . . . . Kathy Hagood

Editorial support provided by InDyne Inc. Writers Group.
NASA at KSC is located on the Internet at *http://www.ksc.nasa.gov*

USGPO: 633-096/00056